ISA Lima, Peru: Health Science, Field Work & Medical Spanish – Summer 2019

Name: Dana Middendorf
STEP Project Category: Education Abroad
STEP Faculty Mentor: Dr. Shraddha Mainali
Major: Biomedical Science and Spanish Minor

What did you learn?

- Medical Spanish:
  - How to collect patient history in Spanish
  - Medical Spanish vocabulary and advanced grammar topics
- Global Public Health:
  - Healthcare system and medical school in Peru
  - Regional and environmental health issues
  - Current research in the field
- Fluency in Spanish; Peruvian culture and current events

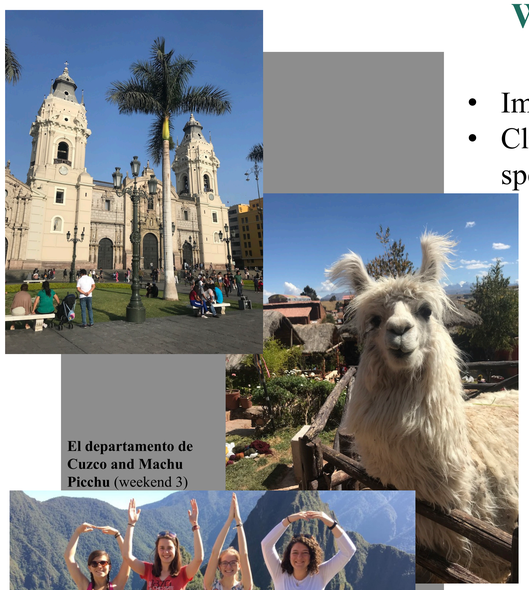
El departamento de Ica (weekend 2): Sandboarding and dune buggies in Huacachina, tour of native species to Las Islas Ballestas (the "poor man's Galapagos"), and an afternoon at a typical Peruvian hacienda

What motivated you to select this project?

- Good fit for both of my career goals: to use Spanish to communicate with patients a a clinician, and to gain experience helping patients abroad
- Public health research and a chance to volunteer
- Language fluency, cultural awareness, homestay
- Summer program with time for research at OSU
- Richness of Peruvian landscape and the opportunity to see South America!

Project Description

For my STEP Signature Project, I studied abroad in Lima, Peru on a trip organized by International Study Abroad (ISA). I took Medical Spanish and Public Health Classes at the Medical School in Lima and lived with a host mother for 5 weeks. While I was there, I also had the opportunity to travel to the Amazon Rain Forest in Iquitos, to Machu Picchu and Cuzco, and to the Islas Ballestas and Huacachina in the department of Ica, along with several public health "field trips" to hospitals and rural areas surrounding Lima with my classmates. The program ran from May 17th through June 22nd, 2019 and helped me to explore a growing interest in using Spanish to communicate to a broader patient population as a physician.



El departamento de Cuzco and Machu Picchu (weekend 3)

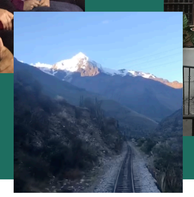
What was transformational about your project?

- Immersion into the culture
- Classes taught in Spanish by native speakers and experts in the field
- Getting to know and navigate a foreign city
- Conversations with locals
- Living with a host mother
- First-hand accounts of how current political and health care issues affect daily life
- New perspectives on money, the environment, and relationships
- Friendships with students from other universities
- Spending time in diverse landscapes

La Selva Amazónica - **Iquitos** (weekend 4)

Favorite Part of the Experience:

- Small, unplanned moments:
  - Conversations with locals
  - Time spent with host mother and other host families
  - Stumbling upon events around the city
  - Depth of conversations
- The beauty and diversity of Peru's various landscapes



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

STEP Second-year Transformational Experience Program